

Serial No. 10/600,309

Docket No. 33985

Remarks:

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-23 remain for consideration in this application along with newly added claims 43-51. Claims 4 and 11 have been canceled.

In the office action dated April 15, 2005, the Examiner raised a number of claims objections. Applicants submit that these objections have been rectified via the forgoing claim amendments.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Klabunde (US 5,759,939). Klabunde discloses a composite material comprising particles of a first metal oxide that are at least partially coated with a second metal oxide that is selected from the group consisting of TiO_2 , V_2O_3 , Cr_2O_3 , Mn_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 , Cu_2O , CoO and mixtures thereof. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to exclude the second metal oxide materials taught by Klabunde. More specifically, claims 1 and 8 require that the second material be selected from the group consisting of Ag, Hg, Au, Sn, Ga, In, and Pt and cations and oxides thereof. While Applicants still maintain that impregnated materials are structurally different from the coated materials of Klabunde (see, specification at pg. 3, lines 9-12 which distinguishes "impregnated" from "coated"), Klabunde clearly does not teach the use of the presently claimed second materials.

Newly added independent claims 43 and 47 recite that the second material is selected from the group consisting of metals and metal cations only. Klabunde only teaches coating with metal oxides and cannot anticipate claims 43 and 47. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 43-51 are allowable over the references of record in this application.

With respect to independent claim 17, Applicants presume that the Examiner rejected this claim because of the recitation of SnO in the Markush group as all other group members include

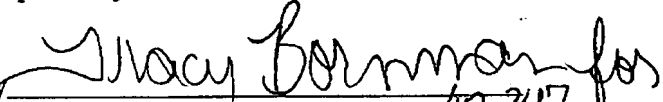
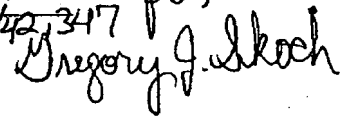
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either Ga or In, none of which are disclosed in the Klabunde reference. Applicants wish to point out to the Examiner that Klabunde teaches a first metal oxide support material comprising SnO_2 , with Sn being in the 4+ oxidation state. Claim 17, however, recites SnO with Sn in the 2+ oxidation state. Thus, the two materials differ not only in chemical structure but in chemical functionality as SnO presents a soft Lewis acid site. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 17 is allowable over the Klabunde reference.

Claims 20-23 were indicated as being allowed in the last office action and have been amended only to obviate certain informalities.

Applicants are also including herewith a petition for a one-month extension of time along with a check in the amount of \$60.00. Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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